

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6459

AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 295

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OVIP

SUBJ: GOI FONMIN FITZGERALD SUGGESTS MEETING WITH THE
SECRETARY DURING LONDON STOPOVER, FEBRUARY 17/18

1. IRISH FONOFF SECRETARY PAUL KEATING CONTACTED CHARGE'
EVENING OF FEBRUARY 12 "WITH SOME URGENCY" TO SAY THAT
FONMIN FITZGERALD HAD NOTED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SCHEDULE
INCLUDED A STOP IN LONDON ON/ABOUT FEBRUARY 18. FITZGERALD
HIMSELF PLANS TO TRANSIT LONDON DURING THE DAY OF FEBRUARY 18
AND HAD ASKED KEATING TO CONVEY TO US THAT, "IF HIS AND THE
SECRETARY'S PATHS SHOULD CROSS IN LONDON, HE SAW CONSIDERABLE
MERIT IN A BRIEF MEETING THERE." KEATING SAID TWO MAIN
SUBJECTS THAT FITZGERALD WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IN THE CONTEXT
OF ONGOING US-EC DIALOGUE ARE: 1) THE POSSIBILITIES OF A
USEFUL EC INITIATIVE IN THE CYPRUS SITUATION AND, 2) THE
EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE.

2. KEATING CONFIRMED THAT THESE SUBJECTS WOULD BE ON THE AGENDA
OF THE FEBRUARY 13 FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING AND EMPHASIZED
FITZGERALD'S
FEELING THAT ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR A DISCUSSION WITH THE SECRETARY
SO SOON AFTER THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING SHOULD NOT BE
LOST.

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EM COMMENT: EMBASSY SEES THIS APPROACH BY IRISH AS OFFERING
US AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO FEED DIRECTLY INTO EC PRESIDENCY
THE SECRETARY'S THINKING AND PLANS ON THESE TWO CRITICAL
ISSUES. THIS COMES AT A TIME WHEN EC-9 ARE SEEKING WAYS TO TAKE
HELPFUL INITIATIVES, AND WE BELIEVE THIS IS A SIGN THAT THEY
ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING USG VIEWS. KEATING DID NOT SPECIFICALLY
EXPLAIN THE URGENCY OF THE APPROACH, BUT THE EMBASSY WOULD
GUESS THAT, IF SUCH A MEETING IN LONDON WERE POSSIBLE, FITZGERALD
WOULD WANT TO SO INFORM HIS EC COLLEAGUES DURING THEIR MEETING
TOMORROW, FEBRUARY 13.
REND AHL

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